

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE C 4WASHINGTON POST
10 July 1984

Sale of Che Diaries Blocked

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LONDON, July 9—Britain's high court today denied a request from Sotheby's auction house to lift an injunction blocking the sale of the diaries of legendary Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara.

In response to protests by the Bolivian government, Judge Sir Christopher Staughton directed Sotheby's not to part with the diaries, which were expected to fetch more than \$330,000 if they come under the hammer next Monday.

But a Sotheby's spokesman said the sale had not been canceled and they were considering an appeal.

The diaries were compiled by the guerrilla leader in 1966 and 1967 during his ill-fated attempt to ignite revolution in Bolivia. Captured by the Bolivian army, which was aided by the Central Intelligence Agency, he was shot on Oct. 9, 1967.

Today's order, which upholds an injunction made last month on the Bolivian government's application, also stops the papers from being returned to the mystery vendor whose decision to offer them has sparked the international rumpus.

The Bolivian government contends that the country is being robbed of part of its history. The armed forces say the documents vanished from their possession under a military government but how they were spirited out is not known.